FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional nformation contact:

Thomas C. Nash
Associate Regional Council
Office of Regional Council (C-14J)
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Phone: (312) 886-0552
Fax: (312) 886-7160
Email: nash.thomas@epa.gov

Gwendolyn Massenburg (SR-6J)
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Phone: (312) 886-0983
Fax: (312) 886-4071
Email: massenburg.gwendolyn@epa.gov

INFORMATION REPOSITORY

U.S. EPA has established a file for public review called an information repository. The information repository contains documents related to the CRS site and the Superfund Program. The repository for Chemical Recovery Systems, Inc is located at:

Elyria Public Library
320 Washington Avenue
Elyria, Ohio 44035 (440) 325-5747

EPA

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use - $300

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5

77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

EPA

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

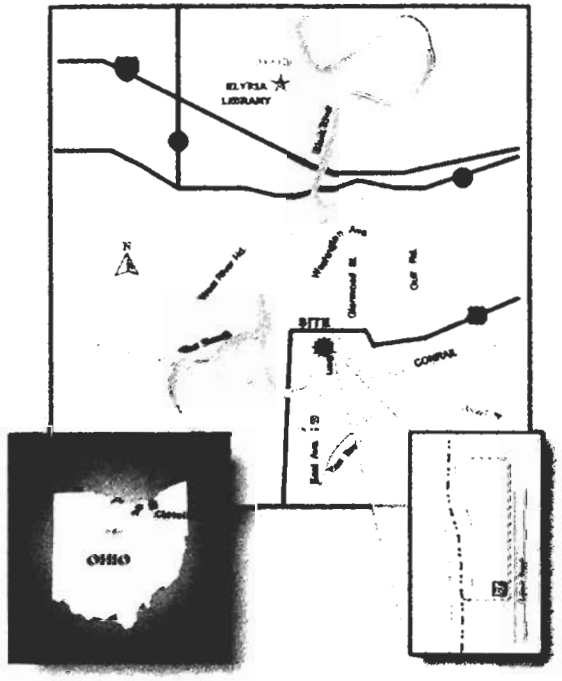
Illinois, Indiana
Michigan, Minnesota
Ohio, Wisconsin

CHEMICAL RECOVERY SYSTEMS, INC. SUPERFUND SITE

Elyria, Lorain County, Ohio **JUNE 2001**

This fact sheet provides:

- A brief history of the site;
- A summary of the Site Team Evaluation Prioritization (STEP) Report;
- Information on future planned activities for the site;
- A list of contacts and sources for additional information



The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.EPA) and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) has conducted investigations to determine if operations at the former Chemical Recovery Systems site released contaminants into the environment.
This fact sheet summarizes key information documented in the 1997 Site Team Evaluation Prioritization (STEP) Report prepared by the Ohio EPA Division of Emergency and Remedial Response (DERR). The STEP Report and other documents pertaining to Chemical RecoverySystems (CRS), Inc. may be found in the information repository for public review (see the section entilted "Information 'Repository").

■ INTRODUCTION

The CRS site is located at 142 Locust Street in Lorain County, Elyria, Ohio (See Figure 1). The CRS site is located in a predominately industrial and commercial area near the central business district of Elyria. The site occupies 4 acres and is bordered to the west by the East Branch of Black River. Operating from 1974 until 1981, CRS received used organic solvents from various industries, distilled the "dirty" solvents on site, and sold the reclaimed solvents back to industries. Solvents were transported to and from the site in 55-gallon drums or by tanker truck. This fact sheet summarizes the findings concerning the site conditions and migration pathways.

■ CRS SITE HISTORY

The site is currently leased for storage of scrap aluminum and junked cars. CRS's former warehouse/office and a Rodney Hunt Still building presently occupy the southeastern corner of the site. The foundation of the former Brighten Still building is located in the northwest corner. Used solvents were transferred from tanker trucks into aboveground storage tanks (AST). Nine ASTs with a total capacity of 53,500 gallons are known to have been situated on the site ,
CEHD 1979c). Fifty five-gallon drums numbering from 4,000 to 9,000 were stored in four different locations with three of the locations situated in the northern portion of the site and one location in the southwestern corner of the site (EPA 1983a). CRS processed approximately 250,000 gallons of used chemicals per month.
The distillation units generated an average of 10,000 gallons of waste sludge per week (EPA 1980). The majority of the waste was disposed of off site in Grafton, Ohio and Michigan (USDC 1980; E&E 1982).

■ CONSENT DECREE

Legal action under the Resource Recovery and Conservation Act (RCRA) was initiated by USEPA in October 1980. On-site inspections revealed that the site posed imminent danger to the local population and environment. A Consent Decree was issued in July 1983, by US District Court, Northern District of Ohio requiring CRS to cease operations and cleanup the site. CRS was ordered to do several remedial actions: excavating all visibly contaminated soil; perimeter excavating the still buildings, disposing all removed soil to an EPA approved site for wastes; backfilling excavated areas with clean fill and grading the site towards the East Branch of the Black River. In November 1983, USEPA after, an on-site inspection concluded that CRS was in compliance with the Consent Decree. The site was secured with perimeter fencing.

■ REMEDIAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Site Team Evaluation Prioritization (STEP) completed their investigation in 1997, which determined the type and extent of contamination at the CRS site. Soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment samples were collected. Samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), pesticides, polychlorinatedbiphenyls (PCBs), metals listed on Target Analyte List (TAL), and Target Compound List (TCL), and cyanide.

The primary source of soil contamination was improper drum storage practices. High concentrations of VOCs, SVOCs, TAL metals, and low concentrations of pesticides/PCBs were detected and potentially migrating to groundwater. Impact on private drinking water supplies is low due to East Branch of Black River acting as a hydraulic barrier. Based upon analytical results, a high potential exists for ground water contamination.

Low levels of VOCs were detected in surface water and sediment downstream of the Site. However, upstream water and sediment sampling revealed higher levels of contaminants. No known surface water intakes (including drinking water) occur along the East Branch of the Black River from the site downstream for 15 miles.

■ SUMMARY

Investigations conducted by both USEPA in 1995, and Ohio EPA in 1997 documents, releases of hazardous substances to site soils, ground water, surface water, and sediments at the site. The results from the most recent 1997 Site Team Evaluation Report (STEP) by Ohio EPA for USEPA were consistent with, and in several cases higher than historical results for those environmental media.

Future planned activites include the following:
Ongoing potential responsible search;
and conducting a remedial investigation/feasibility study, based on the findings of these investigations, the Agency will evaluate several remedies to remediate the site.

■ REFERENCES

1. *CEND. 1979c. Memorandum regarding State Fire Marshel's Oders at the CRS site. From Ernest Bartha, Chemist. To file April 3.*
2. *EPA. 1983a. Memorandum regarding CRS Trip Report. Visit conducted on September 1, 1983. From Gregg A. Kulma to File. September 12.*
3. *U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio (USDC). 1980. Civil Action for United States of America versus CRS.*
4. *Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E&E). 1982. Hydrogeological and Extent of Contamination Study for the CRS site. Study conducted during August and September 1981.*